***The Scarlet Letter: Questions for Chapters 1-5 (pages 45-83)***

Directions: Please answer the following questions as you read the assigned chapters.

***Chapter 1***

1. Where does the story take place?

2. Where are the bearded men standing?

3. How is the prison described?

4. What one plant is different from the other plants around the prison?

***Chapter 2***

1. Why is the crowd’s attention focused on the prison door?

2. How has Hester chosen to make the scarlet “A” that she wears?

3. How do the people in the crowd react to Hester’s scarlet letter?

4. Where do Hester and her husband live before coming to America?

***Chapter 3***

1. Why is Hester not executed for her crime?

2. What information does Hester refuse to divulge?

3. What statement does the stranger whom Hester recognizes make three times?

4. What does Hester state that her child will never know?

5. What does Reverend Dimmesdale say about Hester’s “woman’s heart”?

***Chapter 4***

1. What does Hester fear that Chillingworth might do to her and her baby?

2. Why does Chillingworth not seek to punish Hester?

3. What wrong does Chillingworth believe he has done to Hester?

***Chapter 5***

1. What sort of clothes does Hester normally wear?

2. What are Hester’s two reasons for remaining in Boston?

3. Though the Puritans mostly wore simple black clothes, on what occasions does the narrator say that they wore more elaborate and decorative clothing?

4. How is Hester treated by clergymen, children, and strangers?